



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



NOAA Views on SAB Climate Working Group Review of NOAA's draft National Climate Service Strategy

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Message from Workshop Participants

SAB Climate Working Group retreat gathered over 80 participants from a wide range of sectors including federal, state, regional, local, private and academic to review NOAA's Strategy for a National Climate Service.

- Positive feedback on NOAA taking the initiative to promote a NCS and efforts to date
- Community is engaged, optimistic, and ready to contribute to the evolution of climate services
- The scope of a successful NCS exceeds that of the draft Strategic Plan
- Some skepticism was expressed as to NOAA's ability to lead



CWG Recommended Approach

Climate Working Group Review Committee will likely recommend the following:

- Develop options for the next administration to consider in creating a National Climate Service, based on a common set of principles or objectives
 1. Create a NCS Federation
 2. Create a NCS with NOAA as the lead agency
 3. Create a federally sponsored non-profit
 4. Create a NOAA National Weather and Climate Service
- Convene a Coordinating Committee with Tiger Teams (5-8 members, diverse representation) to develop a report analyzing the pros and cons of the suggested options



Potential NOAA Response

DUS and AAs agree on the following near-term actions and potential response to the CWG recommendations:

1. Support the SAB process for engaging the external community in the development of options for a National Climate Service
2. Refine NOAA's Climate Strategy in light of workshop discussions
 - Compare CWG recommended principles and objectives with those outlined in NOAA's Climate Strategy paper to determine gaps in goals and capabilities
 - Identify operational focus areas for NOAA
 - Determine the boundaries of NOAA's climate services
 - Increase engagement with external partners
3. Continue internal analysis of NOAA's structural options for implementing NOAA's climate strategy and improving the coordination and integration of NOAA's existing climate services
 - Conduct inventory of climate capabilities and skills that currently exist across NOAA
 - Develop internal organization structure options for NOAA leadership review



Proposed Approach

Tiger Team Formation

- NOAA will oversee the creation of the tiger teams and provide management and guidance of the teams in consultation with NOAA DAA Oversight Group
- External Chair will be selected by NOAA
 - NOAA would nominate technical advisors to each tiger team and provide Executive Secretariat support.
 - Participants of the Vail Meeting may be most appropriate candidates for co-leads
- All other members (5-8) of the 4 tiger teams will be selected by NOAA
 - Members will represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders
 - CWG members may or may not necessarily be members of any team
 - Membership will be exclusive to NOAA (except for support)



Proposed Approach

Role of the tiger teams

- 1-2 members of each tiger team will be asked to participate in the drafting of the overall report as recommended by the CWG review and submit it to the SAB
 - Report will include: definition of a Climate Service (CS), why a CS is needed, and metrics for success
- Each tiger team will draft a report providing an evaluation of one of the options presented by the CWG Review
 - Overall report will incorporate these evaluations of options
- The CWG will submit the final overall report to the SAB for October SAB meeting
- NOAA staff will provide support to the effort as needed (e.g. reference material), but at a level that maintains independence and innovation of the teams
- The report would then follow normal SAB procedures



Follow-up

NOAA will use the report in concert with ongoing in-house work related to Option 2 (NOAA leads a National Climate Service):

- Climate capabilities within NOAA being assessed
- Impact of changes across the organization

Programmatic focus of a National Climate Service (NCS):

- Overarching substantive focus of the NCS
 - What major national problems or challenges can be addressed only (or optimally) through the development of a NCS?
- User / customer focus
 - Who are the customers and what needs will be served through a NCS?
 - How to structure service delivery channels within a NCS?
- National Research Council Climate Change study and national summit
 - How can the upcoming NRC Climate Change study and national summit tie into this effort?
- Climate Change Science Program Unified Synthesis Product
 - Is a NOAA NCS consistent with pathways for improved decisions as identified in USP?